Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a small portion of surface 52 of substrate wafer 50, upon [[with]] which a plurality of read and write heads are formed using thin-film deposition techniques. It may be readily appreciated that the entire wafer (not shown) provides hundreds to thousands of read/write arrays, each suitable for use in a tape head assembly. Although not visible in Fig. 3, surface 54 has also been processed to form a matching plurality of read and write heads (not shown). A monolithic substrate piece 62 is shown after substrate wafer 50 has been cut to expose the read and a write head and gaps, exemplified by the read head gap 64 and the write head gap 66 (Fig. 4). For expository purposes, monolithic substrate piece 62 is shown as having one row of alternating read and write heads but may include more rows depending on the specific requirements of subsequent lapping and cutting processing steps. Note that the array of read and write heads shown in Fig. 4 is disposed in a checkerboard pattern, which is preferred according to the method of this invention because the same pattern can be used on both sides 52 and 54 of substrate wafer 50 to provide the requisite R/W track-pair dispositions in the completed head assemblies. Also, it may be readily appreciated that each read and write head element shown in Fig. 4 could instead be a "piggy-back" layer of W-over-R elements such that each track-pair includes two W-over-R piggy-back elements instead of the single element pairs shown.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5 shows a schematic diagram of a magnetic tape drive 73 useful with the magnetic head assembly 38 of this invention discussed above in connection with Figs. 1-4. The controller 74 accepts information from a supply reel tachometer 76, which is coupled to a supply reel motor 78, which is controlled by controller 74 to reversibly rotate a supply reel 82 shown within a single supply reel cartridge 83 (not shown to scale). A take-up reel tachometer 84 is connected to a take-up reel motor 86 that is reversibly driven by controller 74. Take-up reel motor 86 drives a take-up reel 88. Magnetic tape 16 and its leader block moves along a path shown by the dotted line 90,

from supply reel 82 past an idler bearing 92, the air bearing tape guides 94 and 96, continuing around a roller 98 coupled a tension arm transducer 100 under the control of controller 74, and therefrom to take-up reel 88[[.]], substantially as shown. The resulting output from the read elements in MR head assembly 10 is transmitted to controller 74, which also directs data from an external source to head assembly 10 for transfer onto tape medium 16 through the plurality of write elements in MR head assembly 38. Magnetic tape drive 73 may be generally of the one-half inch type having a single reel cartridge. As is well-known in the tape drive industry, other media formats are also available for example, quarter-inch cartridge (QIC), digital linear tape (DLT), digital analog tape (DAT), and the like.